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NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
A UNIT OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF POULTRY HUSBANDRY
RICE HALL

June 2nd, 1958.

Professor J. Lederberg,
Genetics Department,
University of Wisconsin,
Madison 6,
Wisconsin.

Dear Professor Lederberg:

The committee on nominations of the Genetics Society of America (Srb, Green and Hutt) would like to submit your name as one of two from which members of the society may choose a member of the society's Committee on Public Education and Scientific Freedom.

We hope that you will accept the nomination and agree to have your name presented to the membership as one of the two candidates for that office.

I should perhaps reassure you by stating that the Committee on Public Education and Scientific Freedom has been relatively inactive in recent years and it is due to expire by the end of 1959 unless there should be objections in the meantime. As your responsibilities would not begin until January 1st, 1959, it is not likely that you would find any work on that committee unduly burdensome.

We hope that you will agree to let your name stand for the office.

Yours sincerely,

F. B. Hutt

F.B. Hutt
Professor of Animal Genetics.

FBH/kns
Thank you very much, Professor Hutt. As you may know from the minutes of some earlier meetings of the Genetics Society, it has been a matter of some relief that the committee was inactive, as its original instructions were fraught with peril. I am very much in favor of a political forum for scientific aspects of our national life, but there is little hope that a group of the Genetics Society can be elected on the basis of the candidate's orientation on matters of policy.

I would prefer to decline the nomination, though grateful for your good intent, as there is no point to lending weight to a meaningless sinecure. However, if you would prefer to put my name in with the attached statement that I am voting for an early discharge of the committee, that would not be offensive.

However, your obligation to the society would perhaps better direct you to a nominee with more affirmatively constructive views.